India

FOR THE

No. 203. New Series.] No. 297. Old Series.] WEEK ENDING FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 22, 1901. [Registered as a Newspaper. | Price...... 2d. By Post, 2½d.

Notes and News 241
The Report of the Indian Plague Commission 244
Asoka 245
Our London Letter 245
Notes from Bombay 246
Chronicle of the Week 247
The Famine in India:
Gloomy Prospects 248
The "Investors' Review" Fund 248
The Indian Famine Union:
Formation of a Liverpool Branch 248
The Indian Famine Union's Memorial:
Further Opinions of the British Press 249
"India of To-day": Lecture by Mr. Romesh Dutt, C.I.E. 249
Cooper's Hill College: Parliamentary Paper 250
The Report of the Plague Commission: Some Opinions of the British Press 250
Lord G. Hamilton on India 251
Advertisements 252

NOTES AND NEWS.

THIS week's famine telegram from the Viceroy appears simply to mark time, except for the announcement of a substantial reduction of the numbers on relief—from 158,000 to 112,000. It runs thus:—

> Prospects continue gloomy in South Punjab and Rajputana, owing to bad autumn harvest and want of rain delaying spring sowings. Test works contemplated Punjab, but not yet opened. In Central India, Baroda, and the part of Bombay Presidency adjoining, and in part of Central Provinces and North-Western Provinces, rain is wanted for spring cultivation. There is no present cause for anxiety. Elsewhere generally prospects are favourable. There has been good rain recently throughout Madras Presidency, and showers have fallen in parts of Bengal. Numbers in receipt of relief:—Bombay, 72,000; Bombay Native States, 11,000; Baroda, 27,000; Mysore, 2,000. Total, 112,000.

The gloomy prospects of South Punjab and Rajputana, indicated last week, are here confirmed. The postponement of the test works in the Punjab seems to convey a mitigation of the natural inference from the rest of the Report; how far it is wise will probably be seen later on. Another attempt at mitigation is seen in the remark that "there is no present cause for anxiety" over the wide areas enumerated. Even Bengal seems to be threatened with a short supply of rain. The telegram confirms rather than relieves the gloomy anticipations already raised. Would it not be better, on every ground, to face the facts at once?

Strange indeed and disconcerting is the story contained in the "Further Papers" which have just been presented to Parliament regarding Cooper's Hill College. It is a story, not of Dotheboys Hall, but of Dothetaxpayers Hall, and for a parallel to such incompetence and inefficiency in an institution called educational we should probably have to go back a hundred years or more. The story would be incredible if it were not true. A Committee appointed by the Board of Visitors reports, for example, that to 36 candidates admitted to the college in 1900, no fewer than 33 official appointments in India were assured; that the salaries of these posts begin at nearly £300 a year with travelling allowance and increase certainly to £800, and possibly to £2,000 a year, with pension; and that the entrance examination which in effect gave the successful candidates the certainty of these remunerative careers was a pitiful affair for the most part of elementary mathematics. It only remains to add, in the words of the Committee (p. 14):—

> The institution belongs to the Government of India, and is maintained solely for the purpose of supplying recruits to the Public Works Service of that dependency; and the capital which established it, and the funds which support it, came and come from the revenues of India.

The first document in the White-paper is a report from the Board of Visitors, dated April 1 last, in which they suggest to Lord George Hamilton "strong arguments" for the abolition of this astonishing foundation. Briefly they contended that the College was bad for the students, bad for engineering, bad for the teachers, bad for the Public Works Department, bad for the Government, and bad for the Indian taxpayers. Lord George Hamilton was not prepared to discuss abolition, but he asked the Board of Visitors to nominate a Committee, fortified by representatives of the Universities of Oxford, Cambridge, and London, "to enquire into and report upon the working, discipline, and constitution of the college, and the relations of the Visitors, the President, and the teaching staff." It was expressly stated that "the terms of reference are not intended to include any enquiry into the course of study pursued at the college, or into the methods of teaching." We do not know, and we can but dimly conjecture, what further disclosures would have been made if the reference had not been limited in this fashion.

The Committee was duly appointed. It consisted of Sir Charles Crosthwaite, Sir C. P. Ilbert, Sir J. Wolfe Barry, Sir W. H. Preece, Sir E. H. Busk, Dr. A. R. Forsyth, and Mr. G. C. Bourne, the three last being representatives of the Universities. The report of this Committee, dated July 12 last, is the most important, and the most amazing, document in the collection. We have already noticed the fact that practically every candidate who passed a simple examination was assured of a substantial appointment at the expense of the Indian taxpayer. But one out of every four students admitted last year was admitted merely on the nomination of the President. The expenses of the students appear to be about £275 a year for three years, and anybody who can afford this payment, and secure admission, has a career ready made. Of the laxity in other directions there is no need to speak. But one scandal the report omits to mention—namely, that the number of Indian candidates admissible to this institution of "sure things" or "soft options" has been artificially limited by Lord George Hamilton to one or two a year. "Our boys" get the rest. The whole scandal deserves and will doubtless receive the prompt attention of Parliament, especially as there is very little reason to suppose that the reforms to which the India Office has at length been compelled to consent will produce any satisfactory result.

The London Indian Society holds a Conference of Indians residing in the United Kingdom to-morrow (November 23) for the discussion and adoption of a Memorial to Lord George Hamilton on the subject of the Land Revenue Amendment Act (No. vi of 1901) of Bombay. The proposed Memorial submits "that the Bombay cultivator's right of inheritance, sale, and mortgage, with regard to his holding, is an ancient right, and is not a creation of British legislation." In support of this position citations are produced from Mountstuart Elphinstone (1819), Captain Robertson, Collector of Poona (1821), Captain Pottinger, Collector of Ahmadnagar (1822), and Mr. Commissioner Chaplin (1822)—that is to say "from the reports of the first five years after the Mahratta dominions came under the British rule." Experimental land settlements were made, and at last the Bombay Government based their policy on the famous Joint Report of 1836.

> The principles advocated in this Report and adopted by the Government were: (1) that separate settlements should be made with individual cultivators; (2) that leases for 30 years should be substituted for the short leases which had preceded; and (3) that the estimated value of lands should be accepted as the basis of assessment. The heritable and transferable rights of the tenants were recognised, but the principle of a fixed Land Tax was abandoned in favour of a Land Tax to be settled at each recurring settlement.

Down to the present year the heritable and transferable rights of the Bombay cultivators have been uniformly recognised.

But this year and henceforth, by the new Bombay Act, the Bombay Government may "extinguish at its pleasure these ancient and customary rights of the cultivators, hitherto recognised by British legislation." By additions in

sections 68 and 73—the principal changes introduced—the new Act empowers the Government to do these two things:

(1) To abolish the tenant's right "in perpetuity" in tenures to which the survey settlement had been extended, and to make temporary settlements; and

(2) To restrict the right of transfer hitherto recognised in all tenants of lands to which the survey settlement had been extended.

The Memorial notes the assurance of the Bombay Government that it is intended "to exercise the power taken by the Government only in exceptional cases"; but it points out "the fatal defect of the Act is that it does not indicate those exceptional cases." Besides, the process is by a simple notification—an exercise of the executive power: and so the Act "invests the Bombay Government with a more unlimited power in this respect than is possessed or claimed by the Government of any Province in India." The Memorial urges the political unwisdom of withdrawing the legal assurance of these ancient rights and of subjecting them to the mere will of the Executive; and it represents the alarm and consternation evoked by a measure so intimately affecting the interests and the lives of the great mass of the Indian population. The Memorial prays that Lord George Hamilton will veto the Act; and, in any case, trusts and hopes that he "will exclude from the operation of the Act all land to which the survey settlement has been extended, and in which therefore the heritable, transferable, and perpetual right of the cultivator has already been recognised by British legislation."

The Proclamation of the constitution of certain North-West Frontier territories as "a separate Province" and "a Chief Commissionership" sets out the territories in question as "the districts of Peshawar, Kohat, and Hazara, Bannu and Marwat Tahsils of the district of Bannu and Tank, Dera Imail Khan and Kulachi Tahsils of the district of Dera Imail Khan," and claims them all as "part of the dominions of his Majesty, the King-Emperor of India." When Lord George Hamilton's promised papers and map appear, we hope that explanations will be given showing how these territories came to be legally "part of the dominions of his Majesty, the King-Emperor of India"; for in respect of some of them the process is by no means clear. The said territories come under the immediate authority and management of the Viceroy "on and with effect from the ninth day of November, 1901."

Colonel Deane, as we have already stated, intimated at the inauguration of the new Province that the principles of law operative in the districts would remain unaltered, and "that in most ways the administration would be as before." The law remains unaltered in accordance with statute (17 and 18 Vict. c. 77, s. 3). "But," says the "Spectator (November 10):—

But it appears that the Province is to be administered in the old "non-regulation" way, under which the individual will and capacity of the administering officers have much freer play. This has roused once more an old controversy in India, where a section of the governing Service has always maintained that a régime of strict law works better than a system which must depend upon individual capacity and zeal. We believe it does if the first object of government is to let wealth grow, but if the reconciliation of subject and ruler is paramount it does not. The régime of pure law is too rigid, and seems to the Indian too "leaden." It is, of course, impossible to apply the "non-regulation" system to an Empire, because we never could find the men, who must be carefully picked, but in wild frontier provinces it is far the most efficient. The Commissioner can bend his system to suit circumstances, and even individuals, the people like it better, and the officers who work it grow prouder of themselves and their work.

There is an element of truth in this, and sudden changes, even if to the better, are to be deprecated. But the sooner "individual capacity and zeal" is brought into harmonious subordination to "a régime of strict law," the sooner will the relations of parties be placed on a firm footing. The rigidity of the law—presumably a sensible law—operates powerfully upon the minds of men accustomed to rough and ready methods; and there is very great danger indeed when a military man is allowed to "bend his system to suit circumstances, and even individuals." Law knows no "individuals," and "circumstances" cannot overrule law with safety.

The new "province" on (and beyond) the border, which has been partly carved out of the Punjab, is to be called the North-West Frontier Province. This is liable to be confused with the North-West Provinces and Oudh, and it has therefore been decided that the older and greater Province must change its name. "Wonderful and mysterious," says the "Times of India," "are the ways of officialdom in India." It seems curious, indeed, that it is the old established and not the new and as yet unused name which must be changed. Our contemporary continues: "It is true the matter does not greatly affect us. Nevertheless we cannot help feeling just a little anxious lest some enterprising British navigator discover a new desert island and name it 'India,' for then the country which bears that name would by analogy have to seek a new one."

In its issue of November 14, the "Times" referred with great delight to a recent meeting of Mahometans at Lucknow, at which it was decided to keep aloof from the Indian National Congress. We have already in a recent issue of "India" expressed our regret at the attitude thus taken up by a portion of the Mahometan community. That it is only a portion the "Times" itself suggests for our comfort by referring to the meeting held at Lucknow in 1899, shortly before the assembly of the National Congress there. The "Times" reminds us that that "mass meeting," as it is called, protested against the Congress being considered as representative of the Mahometans. Yet this attempt to boycott the Congress was a failure. Numbers of Mahometan delegates were elected both in Lucknow and other places, and attended the sittings.

It is to go over old ground to refute the reasons which are given by the Mahometans in the "Times'" report for their refusal to join the Congress. The essential principles of the Congress are said to be the demand for representative government, and the complete subjection of the public service to unrestricted competition by examination. The two "essential principles" are hardly compatible, for if those who govern are elected, they cannot be chosen by competitive examination and vice versa. But, waiving this point, we defy the opponents of the Congress to point to any resolution of that body by which representative government is made an essential principle of the movement. Representation has been introduced into the public life of India by the English. The Congress has protested against its withdrawal, as in the case of the Calcutta Municipality, for the avowed object of artificially strengthening the European element. But it has never declared that all offices should be filled by election.

Nor has it insisted that all offices should be filled by open competition. It has only said that for such offices as are filled by competitive examination, the examination should be carried out fairly and in such a way as to give the European competitors no unfair advantage—no advantage such as they now enjoy through the examinations being held only in Europe. Surely it is no advantage to the Mahometans that they and the Hindus alike should have to compete in London for admission to the Civil Service of their own country. How are the Mahometans benefited by that? Could it, in fact, be possible to find a better example of how Mahometans and Hindus suffer from the same evils, or a better incentive for them to unite together to improve their common lot?

But while Indians have never proposed the election of all rulers and functionaries, there is one body, the Mysore Representative Assembly, which attracts great attention throughout India. Established in the Native State of Mysore, it is in no sense a Parliament. Its consent is not required either for the levying of taxes or the passing of laws. Its purpose is to bring before the rulers the wishes and grievances of the people; and for that purpose it seems admirably adapted. In it the Dewan makes his annual statement of the condition of the country, and the work of the administration, and a long discussion follows on various subjects. At the recent meeting Forestry, as usual, headed the list; but not the least interesting was the discussion on Education. The members of the Mysore Municipality wished education made compulsory; but the defects of the present system were unsparingly

exposed. Technical and industrial education was called for, but in addition to, not in substitution for, general education. One member proposed that students should be sent to study improved methods of agriculture in England and America, and the training of mechanics for railway work was advocated. The whole discussion was essentially practical, and showed how unfounded is the charge that Indian assemblies waste their energies in empty talk.

An unfortunate misprint crept into our leading article, on "Sir W. W. Hunter," last week. The passage is as follows:—

> But the leaders of the Congress have always cherished the kindliest feelings to Hunter for what he did in the cause, and no doubt they would be the first to admit his severe strictures on leading groups or individuals.

The word "leading" ought to have been "heady": "HEADY groups or individuals." Readers that file the numbers will kindly make the correction.

A correspondent of the "Times" (November 16) points out, justly enough, that if Russia is to have a port at all on the Persian Gulf it will not be a simply commercial port: "it will be a Port Arthur, with the country behind well under control, so that she may be able to mass troops there when needed, and send them eastward, as she now does from Odessa." Why, then, should Russia not have such a port? The writer quotes two answers to the question. First, a statement of Captain Mahan, who says that Russia on the Persian Gulf is

> placed upon the flank of India; she controls one issue of any possible railroad from the Mediterranean through the valley of Mesopotamia, and absolutely interposes between it and its prolongation to India. Besides this, although the Persian Gulf has no such absolute control of the route to the East via Suez as is conferred by predominance in the Levant, it nevertheless does afford a flanking position and entails a perpetual menace of war. . . . . Such a situation . . . . presents drawbacks so obvious that there is no motive, in the good of Russia, for the other States to consent to an arrangement which carries with it hazard to them.

The other opinion is that of Colonel Mark Bell, "the greatest English military expert on this question." It agrees with Captain Mahan's. According to it, Russia established in Southern as well as Northern Persia would envelop Afghanistan, threaten India's flank, and menace the main arteries of communication which lead, not only to India, but to the Far East and Australia as well.

What is to be done, then? The writer declares that no mere "understanding" with Russia will do. "If the understanding with Russia meant that she was free to dominate Persia and establish a naval base in the gulf, the Indian Government would have to fortify their frontiers more, not less; to construct more, not fewer, strategical railways; and to increase, not decrease, their army and the fleet in Indian waters." A bad outlook, no doubt. But if a mere understanding will not suffice, what then? The writer says "common prudence tells us that we should know clearly and definitely—much more clearly than we did a year ago in the case of the Yangtsze Agreement—what advantages we are to receive in return." There is not much illumination there: with any other Government in power than the present one, the suggestion would be superfluous, if it did not even contain an imputation on the common sense of our responsible statesmen. Fortunately, however, the writer has excited our interest by a mere speculation; for he gives half a dozen tolerably strong reasons why "Russia seems unlikely of her own accord, and without our invitation, to occupy this position." But, after all, what moral grounds can we put forward to justify our barring Russia from the sea on the Persian Gulf or elsewhere? The suspicion of her warlike intentions may easily be overdriven. Of course, in any case, we must be ready for defence, and such defence need not involve increased expenditure.

Mr. J. M. Parikh, barrister-at-law, is again doing good service for India by a series of lectures. On Tuesday last week (November 12) he spoke at the Uxbridge Young Men's Literary Institute on "The Village Communities of India." He gave his audience "a glimpse of what India had been in the past, in order to enable them to think of India not as a country that had come into prominence or existence during the past century, but as a country most civilised at a time when the people of England were dressing themselves in skins and painting their bodies." Mr. Parikh lucidly explained the village community of the olden times, comparing and contrasting the situation with the system of to-day, with much historical and legal knowledge. He was able to put in telling points on self-government and economic conditions. Taking up a remark of the chairman's that they were looking forward to the time when British and Indians would become more one people than now, Mr. Parikh acknowledged the good intentions of the people at home, and said it was not that the Indians disliked the Englishmen—though the average Englishman too often went out with the notion that his nation was superior to every other nation, and especially to a nation of coloured men—but that the policy debarred the people from coming together. We are glad to see that Mr. Parikh has a long list of engagements on hand.

Mr. William L. Hare has published with Messrs. P. S. King and Son a brochure ("Candlestick Pamphlet, No. 3") dealing with "Famine in India: its Causes and Effects." He discusses the question under four heads: (1) "the operations of trade"; (2) "the causes of poverty"; (3) "famine made by Government"; and (4) "the Currency Swindle." He has taken out the substance of the Report of the Famine Commission of 1898 and cast the main particulars and lessons into a popular form. Mr. William Digby, C.I.E., who writes a prefatory "appreciation and commendation," actually takes it upon him to testify that "Mr. Hare, to my knowledge, and my memory covers more than half a century, is the only man in the United Kingdom not having visited India, or not having any connexion with that country, who has actually read the evidence and mastered the facts concerning an Indian famine." Mr. Digby cannot know this, and it is not necessary to condemn everybody else in order to do justice to Mr. Hare. Again, why should Mr. Digby say that India is "neglected alike by public men and public organisations—with the exception of the [National Reform] Union"? We know what the Union has done, but surely the Union does not stand alone in this matter; and why such indiscriminate condemnation? The pamphlet ought to be widely read, and its statements and conclusions should be compared with the Blue-books. We do not pin our faith to all its propositions, and some of them we should have liked to see expressed with qualifications.

An old complaint against reformatories in India is that the boys when they go out again into the world seldom follow the trades that they have been taught during their period of detention. The superintendent of the Yerrowda reformatory thinks that this is due chiefly to the system of police surveillance, the boys finding a change of occupation useful as a means of concealing their former detention in a reformatory. On the other hand the Director of Public Instruction believes the caste system to be largely responsible. There can be little doubt that the two work together. The boy from the reformatory finds himself an object of suspicion to the members of the caste at whose trade he works and fear of the discovery of his former troubles makes him very unwilling to incur their enmity. So he seeks a means of livelihood where there is less opposition. As we have before asked, is not the true solution to teach boys the work of their own castes?

Remittances on India for 60 lakhs were on Wednesday offered for tender by the India Council, and applications amounting to Rs.21,92,20,000 were received at prices ranging from 1s. 3d. and 31-32nds to 1s. 4d. and 1-32nd. The following amounts were allotted—viz., in bills, Rs.23,36,000 on Calcutta, Rs.20,82,000 on Bombay, and Rs.3,82,000 on Madras, all at an average of 1s. 3.97d.; and in telegraphic transfers eight lakhs on Calcutta and four lakhs on Bombay, at an average of 1s. 4.03d. Tenders for bills at 1s. 3d. and 31-32nds will receive about 1 per cent., and for transfers at 1s. 4d. and 1-32nd in full. Last week remittances for 60 lakhs were sold for £399,281 making the total disposed of from April 1 to Tuesday night Rs.12,96,88,917, producing £8,616,568. Next week 60 lakhs will again be offered.

THE REPORT OF THE INDIAN PLAGUE COMMISSION.

THE Report of the Indian Plague Commission, a bulky volume of over five hundred pages, is naturally more occupied with the scientific than with the political aspects of the visitation, and for the general reader the technical and inconclusive nature of the scientific investigation robs it of much of its interest. Not that this inconclusive result reflects any discredit on the eminent medical experts who formed the bulk of the Commission. It is of the nature of true science never to pronounce a judgment without ample proof, and to leave all questions open for further examination where the evidence is not decisive. The laborious years that Newton and Darwin spent in collecting the evidence on which their theories rested, and the self-restraint with which they avoided putting them before the world until the evidence seemed to them conclusive, are typical examples of the caution that is incumbent on all scientific investigators. Nevertheless it will be a disappointment to some to find that many vexed questions are still undecided, that only a suggestion can be made as to the place whence the plague came to India, or the means by which it was brought. That even the results of inoculation have to be gathered from a rather small array of statistics, and that the evidence as to the effect of climate and temperature on the spread of the disease are uncertain, shows how far we are from a really satisfactory knowledge of the causes and conditions of bubonic plague.

One curious and unexpected though negative result has been derived from a comparison of the statistics of plague mortality in the most densely populated districts of the city of Bombay with those in comparatively thinly-peopled parts of the city, and the result seems to have surprised the Commission itself. Even after making every allowance for defects in the methods of estimating the density of the population, it still had to be admitted that there was no inter-relation whatever between that density and the prevalence of the epidemic. This shows, as the Commission point out, "how little a priori judgments are to be trusted in matters relating to the influence of sanitary surroundings upon the prevalence of plague." Similarly, we find, in the cautious words of the Report, that "freedom from plague is not always associated with good ventilation." As for the common theory that plague is a result of the dirty rooms in which the poor of Bombay and other Indian towns have to live, that too receives little countenance from the Report. The Commission describe the dwelling-rooms in India as "surprisingly clean." Even in the chawls of Bombay City "the majority of the dwelling-rooms—such at least as are in the occupation of single families—are kept neat and clean." It is only where several families are crowded together in windowless rooms that the condition is really dirty.

But leaving the question of the causes and conditions of plague, and the still more technical subject of plague inoculation, we turn to the interesting subject of its suppression. It is especially here that theory and practice came into collision and medical and political considerations were found sometimes to point in opposite directions. In the early days of the outbreak there was too much inclination on the part of the authorities to put aside the political, the moral, and the religious aspects of the case, and to treat it as purely medical. The people were to do as the doctors ordered, and the whole power of the State was to enforce their orders. But it was soon found that the mass of the Indians valued many things more than life and health, and were not prepared to sacrifice their ideas of religion and family honour even in the extremity of pestilence. The Government—perhaps naturally—thought such things of small account in comparison with staying the spread of the epidemic; and the people discovered this fact and lost confidence. In the end the Government had to admit their mistake, and to confess that without the co-operation of the people the best devised regulations were foredoomed to failure.

All this is very obvious from the Report itself, in which it is declared that "the coercion of the people into compliance with regulations against plague is not a practicable policy." The Commission report very adversely to the plan of house-to-house visitation. "The idea of such a search in order to discover cases of sickness was novel to the Native of India, who is at least as averse from the invasion of the privacy of his house as an inhabitant of Western Europe." Thus in Bombay it was found to be "intolerable to the people," while in Surat it was viewed with "unreasoning terror," in fact there the search, according to Mr. Stewart, the Collector, "did more harm than good." The final verdict of the Commission is that house-searching "is a struggle between the authorities on the one hand trying to discover the cases, and the people on the other hand trying to hide them, and whichever is the stronger wins." Except where a very strong establishment has to deal with a limited amount of infection, such searches are not only unproductive of good, but irritating to the people.

If we turn for a moment from these general views to the specific case of Poona, we see how much suffering and demoralisation would have been saved had the Government been wise in time. Mr. Rand declared that the inhabitants of Poona were "on the whole friendly" to the search parties, consisting at first of three British soldiers and an Indian gentleman, "though people who had sick in their houses usually tried to conceal them." But Mr. Rand himself fell a victim to the passions which hatred of these searchings in part aroused. The evil effects did not stop there. The Government answered the murders—proved in the end to be the work of a few hare-brained youths—by inaugurating a system of repression. The leaders of the Indian community became objects of suspicion. Two of the foremost citizens, the brothers Natu, were thrown into prison without trial or even definite charge, and kept there for months, though the younger had taken no part in public affairs, and the elder had only ventured on some mild remonstrances concerning plague administration, far more moderate than many contained in the Report of this Commission. By a straining of terms, Mr. Tilak was condemned to eighteen months' imprisonment for articles which had appeared in his journal; and not content with this the Government even left the mark of its panic on the Statute Book in the new law of sedition and the new law of criminal procedure by which, inter alia, the Courts could order a journalist to find sureties for good behaviour. And all this originated in certain unpopular measures of plague prevention which a Commission appointed by the Government now condemns as impracticable and useless, if not positively mischievous.

Another much debated measure of plague repression was the compulsory removal of patients to hospital. Of this it is said that it was "everywhere unpopular" and it certainly produced in Bombay a most formidable riot. The terror inspired by the hospitals was increased by the high mortality therein, due in part, no doubt, to the removal of moribund patients. The result was that "the widespread apprehension of the hospitals was one of the reasons which led to the habitual concealment of cases." In Bombay and Calcutta, plague-stricken cases were carried from house to house, and so increased the number of centres of infection, and made disinfection more difficult. But the curious thing is that where removal was made optional, and very few were taken to hospital, it did not necessarily follow that the epidemic was severe. There was no compulsion either in Mysore City, or on the occasion of the second outbreak in Calcutta, and there was little spread of the infection. The special health officer at Calcutta even gave it as his opinion that "with more stringent measures there would have been a far more systematic suppression of cases, by disposing of the dead anyhow, and by giving false information." On the whole the Commission, while of opinion that it is very desirable to get the plague-stricken into hospitals, see that compulsion will often do more harm than good. One evil, indeed, seems to be strangely overlooked in the Report. The power of compulsory removal to hospital may be used as a means of extortion—or at least the fear that it may be so used is capable of producing the most terrible results. The great riot at Cawnpore in which men of all creeds joined is generally attributed to a rumour that the police were threatening patients sick of other diseases with removal to the plague-hospital, hoping thus to extort money.

There remain the methods of segregation and evacuation. Segregation of those exposed to infection was always unpopular, and, like compulsory removal, led to the concealment of cases. Generally the Commission come to the conclusion that where the area of infection is known

and small, segregation is valuable, but in towns, when the infection is widespread, it is too easily evaded to be effective, and in country districts, if the infection is present in more than a few villages, it is impossible to provide the necessary establishments. As to evacuation, especially the total abandonment of plague-stricken villages till disinfected, the Commission incline to the view that it is beneficial, provided that the people can be prevented from returning secretly to the village, or from wandering to other districts, and so possibly spreading the infection. But here, too, the ever-recurring question of popular feeling must again be taken into account. One of the greatest tragedies in the whole history of plague administration was the shooting down of the inhabitants of Garhshankar, who were ordered to vacate their village while no adequate shelter was provided for them elsewhere, and who in consequence refused. Everywhere we are met by the necessity of securing the co-operation of the people in all measures against the plague—a view now endorsed by this Report and admitted on all hands, but not so very long ago a seditious heresy which the Indian publicist uttered at his peril.

ASOKA.*

THE series of "Rulers of India" was obviously incomplete without any treatment of Asoka; and we are glad that it has been re-opened to admit a supplementary volume upon the great Buddhist emperor. Professor Rhys Davids, we learn from the preface, had undertaken to open the original series with a life of Asoka, but was prevented from carrying out his intention. Mr. Vincent A. Smith has filled the gap in a thoroughly competent manner.

There are two sources of evidence for the history of Asoka, the monumental and the literary. But the literary evidence is found to be irreconcilable with the monumental, and must, therefore, be regarded as untrustworthy. Historians of India have generally followed in regard to Asoka the method which Thucydides applied to Homer. Thucydides, it will be remembered, used Homer for an authority on the beginnings of Greek History, merely knocking off ten or fifty per cent., as the case might be, from his stories, on the double ground of the tendency of poets to exaggerate, and the tendency of uncritical man to believe in the supernatural. Modern historians of Greece have, however, generally recognised the impossibility of arriving at veracious history by this simple process of rejecting the prima facie incredible. It is best to keep the evidence of inscriptions and archaeological remains entirely separate from purely subjective interpretations of poetic tradition.

This is the newer and sounder treatment which Mr. Vincent Smith has applied to the story of Asoka. The bulk of his book is devoted to a careful account of the monarch's life and work as we can piece it together from the monuments. We are then given a complete translation, with notes, of the text of the rock inscriptions and the cave and pillar inscriptions, so that we can verify all Mr. Smith's inferences for ourselves. Finally, the Ceylonese and Indian legends of Asoka are narrated in two separate chapters, without any attempt to fit the legends to the history. The student of the full evidence of the inscriptions will probably feel that any discussion of the critical value of the legends is superfluous.

The story of the great emperor who, in the third century before the Christian era, was filled with remorse for the blood he had shed in his conquests, and who, without laying aside the duties of his royal station, voluntarily denied himself the luxuries of wealth, is surely one of the most fascinating of all that have been recovered for us from the monuments. Mr. Smith is rightly impatient with the "silly fictions of mendacious monks" which represent Asoka as having waded to his throne through a sea of blood, securing his position by the massacre of ninety-nine brothers. The monuments show that his brothers and sisters were alive in the middle of his reign and the objects of his thoughtful care. It is not for such unnatural crimes that the Asoka of the rock edicts is filled with remorse, but for such bloodshed as even the best monarchs and statesmen are apt to regard as the inevitable necessity of empire. In edict XIII the King dwells on the sufferings which warlike conquest entails—the "diffused misery" which even those who are specially protected cannot escape in the loss of friends and relatives. "The loss of even the hundredth or the thousandth part of the persons who were then slain, carried away captive, or done to death in Kalinga would now be a matter of deep regret to His Majesty." Nor are such professions with Asoka a mere luxury of sentiment. He issues instructions to his frontier officers that the forest tribes, whom he has been advised to destroy in detail, are to be treated with compassion and won over, if possible, by kindness. "For his Majesty desires for all animate beings security, control over the passions, peace of mind, and joyousness." Well may Mr. Smith wonder whether Asoka found many frontier officers able and willing to act up to the spirit of his instructions. History is unfortunately silent on the point; but Asoka reigned for thirty-eight years, and it was in the ninth year of his reign that he became a Buddhist lay disciple, and in the eleventh year that he fully entered the Buddhist Order. For twenty-seven years, then, he seems to have applied his Buddhist principles to the management of his Empire. There have been few more interesting experiments in the history of the world. If he did not fail hopelessly—and the mere fact that the inscriptions cover this long period seems to show that he did not fail—idealism in imperial affairs is not such imbecile folly as men of the world are apt to assume.

To command success idealism must, it is true, be combined with prudence and tact. Asoka does not seem to have been lacking in these qualities. With all his hatred of bloodshed, he did not venture to abolish the death penalty, though he mitigated its severities. Above all, he had one great quality which in all ages has been an important factor in winning popularity for absolute rulers. In the characters of popular kings and despots given by the ancient historians there is no phrase so continually recurring as the two words, "faciles aditus": "He was easy of access." What other monarchs have done on diplomatic grounds, Asoka did from an overpowering sense of duty. There is no reason to suspect the sincerity of the sixth edict which, after stating that "at all hours and in all places" he desires to be "constantly informed of the people's business;" adds that he toils "for no other end than this, that I may discharge my debt to animate beings, and that while I make some happy in this world, they may in the next world gain heaven." The modern official could set before his eyes no nobler ideal of service than is contained in this sixth edict of Asoka.

We have only space to mention the chapter on the extent and administration of the empire, with the interesting account of Asoka's capital, Pâtaliputra, on the site now occupied by Patna and Bankipore. In his chapter on the monuments Mr. Smith quotes the graphic account by a fourteenth century historian of the removal of one of the massive Asoka pillars from Topra to Delhi. Quantities of silk-cotton were placed round the column, and when the earth at its base was removed it fell gently over on the bed prepared for it. A photograph of the Laurivâ-Nandangarh pillar forms the frontispiece to the volume, and another plate gives a capital reproduction of the marvellously perfect writing on the Rummindei column. To study such an inscription is to be brought face to face, across the gulf of ages, with one of the most remarkable characters in history.

* "Asoka: The Buddhist Emperor of India." ("Rulers of India.") By Vincent A. Smith. (Oxford: Clarendon Press.)

OUR LONDON LETTER.

WESTMINSTER, Thursday.

Parliament is to be called together a week earlier than had been anticipated, and three or four weeks earlier than usual. The cause is obvious. Sir Michael Hicks-Beach is beginning to feel the pinch of impecuniosity, and with no immediate prospect of a termination of hostilities in South Africa a further call on the public purse is seen to be inevitable. Lord Salisbury, therefore, will soon realise his wish for an opportunity of replying to critics of the Government from his place in Parliament. Meanwhile, his most loyal supporter in the Press has been exhorting Liberals to play the part of patriots by shutting eyes and mouth alike to the mischief of the war, pending the reopening of the Session. Liberals, of course, entertain a different conception of patriotism, and it is not to be expected that they will quietly submit to instruction in the

subject from a party which has brought the nation within sight of ruin. If the Government had been alive to their duty, Parliament would have been sitting continuously during the progress of the war. The present House of Commons is by no means an ideal Assembly, but at least it is wiser than the Cabinet, and capable in its own way of placing some check on the folly of that odd conglomeration of fatuities.

As the opening of the Session draws nearer, one hears more of the legislative proposals of the Government and less of the depravity of the Nationalist members. If Mr. Walter Long can be accepted as an authority, we are to witness a further attack on the County Council of London in the form of a Water Bill, which will ignore the existence of that body; and, unless the Duke of Devonshire was merely speaking in his sleep in his recent speech at Liverpool, we are also to be confronted with an Education Bill as to which little can be said at present, except that it remains in the clouds. Mr. Long's statement, foreshadowing the Water Bill, proves that the hostility of the Government to the County Council is as deep-rooted as ever. A more foolish attitude it would be difficult to conceive. London, it is true, is extremely Imperialistic in Imperial affairs, but she is at the same time intensely Radical in domestic politics. Some day a new Randolph Churchill will arise and perceive the possibility of blending these two sentiments in a united stream. If the new Randolph were a Liberal the British capital might be made a stronghold of Liberalism; but if, on the other hand, he should reappear as a Tory-Democrat, municipal London might easily be induced to go the way of the Parliamentary divisions. Meanwhile, there is no Randolph Churchill on either side.

Dire threats of retribution have been uttered against the Nationalist members for their sympathy with the Boers and their antipathy to Mr. Chamberlain, but, strange to say, those gentlemen remain quite unmoved. After so much bragging, Ministers will cut a supremely ridiculous figure if they shrink from attempting to fulfil their vows. They are deeply pledged to a revision of the rules of procedure, so as to strengthen the punitive powers enjoyed by the Speaker, and, moreover, they have let it be known that this was to be the first work of the coming Session. Already, however, hints are beginning to be dropped to the effect that such a task would be an extremely ticklish affair, that it might lead to prolonged debate, offer opportunities for obstruction, and tend to delay the more pressing business of the year. It almost looks as if Mr. Balfour's courage were beginning to ooze out at his finger-ends. He may, after all, prefer to face the vexation of his friends rather than provoke a battle royal with his Irish adversaries.

Lord Rosebery is still lingering in his furrow. He promises to emerge about the middle of next month, from which we may infer that while he does not regard "the crisis" as particularly acute he is nevertheless quite confident that it will abide his leisure. People who have made a study of this volatile politician's caprices are aware that they are seldom without method. By delaying his reappearance till the 16th December, the ex-Premier will enjoy the advantage of being able to pass in review not only all the other speeches of the recess, but also the proceedings of the forthcoming conference at Derby of the National Liberal Federation. Prophetic fire is not to be expected from Lord Rosebery, but when he does speak he will doubtless supply us with some suggestive material for our after-dinner discussions and with much acute, though purely negative, criticism of the words and actions of less idle men.

For his own sake his admirers are hoping that Lord Rosebery may have some more effective remedy to offer for our national ills than the trivialities of his latest prescription. Speaking at Edinburgh a few days ago he lightly suggested the sacrifice of party government and the substitution in its place of administration by a syndicate composed of Liptons, Carnegies, and Ismays. Lord Rosebery seems to be under the impression that men of commercial genius are necessarily devoid of political bias. The fact is that they are among the keenest of partisans. His own Government, though he must have forgotten it, largely consisted of men trained in commerce, while the ablest man in the present Government made his fortune in the Birmingham screw trade. Moreover, the House of Commons is full of merchants, manufacturers, solicitors, stock-brokers, and company directors, and nearly every member of Lord Salisbury's Cabinet holds at least one directorship. What is really wanted in Parliament at the present moment is a more evenly balanced adjustment of the party system.

Imitation being the sincerest form of flattery, the German Emperor is about to pay a genuine compliment to the Prince and Princess of Wales by sending his eldest son on a tour as world-wide as theirs. India may be included in the Crown Prince's travels, permission to visit our Eastern Empire having been sought and obtained from the King. His Majesty, it is said, has received the proposal with great cordiality and has promised that the young Prince will be treated with all the hospitality and consideration which the British flag can command. The idea of the tour is an old one, but it has been revived by the success of the colonial journeyings of King Edward's son and daughter-in-law.

Two things are to be noted in the speeches delivered this week by Sir H. Campbell-Bannerman. Though in the Buller country, the ex-Minister for War refrained from making any allusion to the supersession of Sir Redvers Buller, and, in the second place, he plainly gave Lord Rosebery to understand that there was at present no vacancy in the Liberal leadership. The hint will doubtless be taken by Mr. Asquith and Sir Edward Grey, neither of whom, indeed, is likely to relish Sir Henry's scarcely veiled demand for the recall of Lord Milner. Politicians are greatly impressed by the firm and confident tone which the leader of the Opposition is now adopting. Sir Henry is one of the shrewdest men in politics, and those who know him best declare that he was never so certain as now of the strength of his position.

NOTES FROM BOMBAY.

QUIET IN KABUL.

LORD CURZON AND MR. COTTON.

THE SUGAR DUTY ACT.

[From an Indian Correspondent.]

Bombay, November 2.

The week is barren of news—nothing even from Kabul where the "gobemouches" are on the alert for any piece of sensationalism. It is evident that things are quiescent at the capital of the new Amir. Or can it be that this is the usual period of lull before the storm? The politics of Afghanistan are more or less turbulent. It may be that the late Amir had, with great sagacity, so devised affairs as to give his successor the least trouble. Anyhow he had cut off many a tall poppy which was thought dangerous to the throne. So far the disturbing element has been removed. But it may be also that whilst this element has been minimised a new one may be in process of formation. This may show its hand later on when things arrive at maturity.

The changes at Kabul have detained Lord Curzon at Simla a little longer than usual. He now starts on his cold-weather tour on the 7th inst. In a few days more the faithful official telegraphist will have recorded for the great ones in England all about the Viceregal progress and Viceregal utterances, of which we shall certainly have an abundant crop. But this time the tour is eastward rather than southward. Assam and Burma are the objective. How far he will penetrate in the latter region cannot be said. But at any rate he will see enough of the province which Lord Dufferin presented to his Queen in 1885—"the rind of the apple" which an illustrious predecessor on the Imperial "masnad" at Calcutta did not care twopence for. But, more than Burma, Assam is likely to engage the Viceregal attention. Lord Curzon will have to judge between the Chief Commissioner and the vociferous planters whom successive Governments from the days of Lord Dufferin have pampered. The best course, as has been stated in these notes, is to institute an open enquiry by an independent judicial tribunal, competent to weigh the evidence adduced on either side. A Viceroy on tour can at best have only a few hours available to look into things, while the tea plantations are

spread wide over the province. A roving Commission is really needed to take an exhaustive survey of the situation, collect facts and offer its opinion. Will Lord Curzon have the courage to take this course? I fear not. He is already on the black list of the bureaucracy, beneficed and unbeneficed. Both are wistfully looking forward to the day when he will bid farewell to the shores of India. He will be, they think, a "good riddance," and if only the paralysed Ministry of the day will send some "namby-pamby" of a mediocrity to fill the exalted office, there will be Elysium again in India. Otherwise, we may take it for granted that with another strong and self-willed Viceroy there will be an official revolt till the office of Viceroy is made so hot that the bureaucracy will again have everything its own way as during the decennium which preceded Lord Curzon's rule. We shall see. At present it is to be feared Lord Curzon is the best abused of men, and it will all depend on his Assam tour whether he can soothe the passions of the planters and yet contrive to pat the Chief Commissioner on the back, or displease the party of fire and fury, and draw down upon him the vials of their wrath.

Half a year has gone by and the Trade and Navigation Returns show that on the whole trade is creeping back to the level of 1898. There have, however, been abnormal imports both of white goods, chiefly in Bombay, and of beetroot sugar, both in Bombay and Bengal. The former has already had its evil influence on the Native piece goods bazaar in the city, where a few bankruptcies have taken place, and more are threatened. Meanwhile depression in the cotton industry continues, and there seem to be few chances of improvement till the next busy season.

As to the extraordinary importations of beetroot sugar, it seems from the figures for the half of the triennial period that there is an increase of 210 per cent. in the quantity imported from Germany, and of 70 in that from Austria. Mauritius imports are stationary. Here then the returns further emphasise the utter futility of the countervailing duties. They have not promoted a single new Native enterprise in sugar. Nor have they stimulated the progress of the old industry which has long been decaying. The ostensible object was to protect Indian sugar manufacture. That has not been attained. Meanwhile the foreign sugars have taken immense strides forward. They are growing more popular every day, and the only authority which is benefited by the duty is Government. That is to say it profits at the expense of the ultimate consumer. This is high State finance in India with a vengeance.

CHRONICLE OF THE WEEK.

THURSDAY, November 14.—Lord Rosebery, responding to the toast of "The Houses of Parliament," at the Edinburgh Merchant Company's dinner, discussed some of the more pressing problems of government, and discerned a general apathy and impotence in grappling with these questions which ought, in the national interest, to be overcome, and which could only be overcome if parties would learn to sink their differences and combine in a great national effort.

Lord Dufferin, delivering his address as Lord Rector of Edinburgh University, said that he was not disposed to think that the war in South Africa, however prominently it might figure before us at present, would be classed by history as other than a military episode. What was now happening in South Africa was an exact reproduction of what happened in Burma, and was the obligatory outcome of the peculiarities of the contest and of the area in which it was being waged.

A Vienna journal announced that an agreement had been concluded between Great Britain and Turkey with a view to the delimitation of their respective frontiers and spheres of influence between Yemen and Aden.

FRIDAY, November 15.—Lord Kitchener stated that the rearguard of Colonel Byng's column, which was escorting captures, when moving on Heilbron after taking part in operations in the north-east of the Orange River Colony under the general command of General Elliot, was attacked yesterday by about 400 of the enemy, said to be under the command of De Wet. After two hours' fighting, the attack was repulsed on all sides, and the enemy retired, leaving eight dead. Our losses were one officer and one man killed, three officers and nine men wounded, all belonging to Kitchener's Fighting Scouts. A strong patrol of Imperial Yeomanry sent out from Brakspruit on Wednesday was surrounded, six miles from camp, by about 300 Boers, and lost six killed, 16 wounded, and some prisoners, since released. Colonel Hickie moved out from Brakspruit in support, and drove off the enemy.

A Blue-book was issued containing numerous detailed reports, forwarded by Lord Kitchener in response to a request from the Secretary for War, dated March 18 last, as to the management and condition of the concentration camps in South Africa. The Blue-book fully justified the critics of these pestilential and death-dealing camps, and incidentally showed the value of Miss Hobhouse's inspection, and of questions in Parliament. The Jingo Press, ostrich-like as ever, quoted those passages from the Blue-book which remarked upon the habits of the Boers.

SATURDAY, November 16.—The "Times" printed a candid letter from its Pretoria correspondent, who wrote:—It would seem that not even after two years has it been properly grasped at home that this war is unique of its kind. Not only does it entail the subjugation of a white race, characterised for centuries by a dogged perseverance akin to unreasoning obstinacy and determined to continue the struggle so long as a man, a rifle, and a round of ammunition remain; but it is being waged over a country of which the difficulties arising from the immense distances and the peculiar configuration cannot be adequately realised by the European mind. Nothing better illustrates the difference between the present campaign and a European war than the small effect that the losses of the Boers have on their capacity for doing mischief. Owing to the vast extent of the country, the tactics and dispersed condition of the enemy, a commando of 250 requires as many troops to look after it as a commando of 350, and when reduced to 150 it still seems capable of causing us the same amount of annoyance. It will, therefore, be more consonant with its dignity and peace of mind if the British nation realises once and for all that the period of the duration of the war cannot be calculated by weeks or months. The temper of the Boers has shown that the war is not to be brought to an end by a coup, however brilliant, even if one were possible.

MONDAY, November 18.—It was stated that arrangements were being made with a view to the meeting of Parliament on January 16 next.

Lord Salisbury, replying to a resolution of confidence in the Government from a habitation of the Primrose League, wrote that Ministers needed such encouragement, for England was, he believed, the only country in which during a great war eminent men wrote and spoke publicly as if they belonged to the enemy.

Sir Wilfrid Lawson and Dr. Spence Watson were the speakers at a Liberal demonstration at Workington. Sir Wilfrid moved a resolution affirming adherence to the old Liberal policy of peace, retrenchment, and reform, and expressing confidence in Sir H. Campbell-Bannerman. It was, he urged, the duty of every man to say the thing that was in him in the present national crisis, and he criticised Lord Rosebery for postponing for a month his promised speech. The war had been the ruin of all that was great, good, and noble in this country, but at least Liberals, by declaring the truth, should keep their consciences clear and their hands clean. Dr. Watson, in his speech, urged that terms neither grudging nor pinching should be announced upon which the war would be ended. The resolution was adopted with a few dissentients.

At a town's meeting held at Darwen a resolution was adopted, with only a few dissentients, to the effect that, while expressing no opinion concerning the origin and justness of the war, the meeting was so deeply impressed with the appalling mortality in the concentration camps in South Africa that it requested the Government to do all that its wisdom and power would enable it to do to lessen that mortality as speedily as possible.

Lord Kitchener stated that since November 7 the columns reported 43 Boers killed, 16 wounded, 291 prisoners, and six surrenders, with the capture of 164 rifles, 5,650 rounds of ammunition, 205 wagons, 600 horses, and 11,500 cattle.

The new treaty between the United States and Great Britain dealing with the Isthmian Canal question was signed in Washington by Mr. Hay and Lord Pauncefote.

TUESDAY, November 19.—Sir H. Campbell-Bannerman addressed a Liberal meeting at Plymouth. He devoted a considerable portion of his speech to a consideration of Lord Rosebery's recent criticism of government by party. He pointed out that in party government the people, by their nominees, governed. But who, he asked, was to select those men of business capacity to whom Lord Rosebery had referred, and where did the rights of the people come in? He denied that party distinctions had become obliterated, and asked whether if a Liberal Government had been in power the Jameson Raid would have ever occurred or the people of Cape Colony have been deprived of their political liberties. The Government by their policy of unconditional surrender, of devastation and confiscation, were permanently alienating from us the whole of the Dutch population, who would be our fellow-subjects in South Africa, and by whose

willing help alone we could maintain our sway. That was the great peril of the hour, and he despaired of that peril being removed so long as Mr. Chamberlain remained in Downing Street and Lord Milner at Pretoria.

Lord Tweedmouth, addressing a large assembly of Liberals at Inverness, said that in his humble judgment the main burden of the war rested on President Kruger and Mr. Chamberlain. Referring to the mortality in the concentration camps, Lord Tweedmouth said the country had a right to insist that at any cost it should be reduced. If we beat the Boers to the ground we should have to keep 50,000 soldiers in Africa for the next fifty or a hundred years.

Mr. F. A. Channing, M.P., was prevented by illness from attending a meeting of the Liberal Association of his division, but he sent a letter on the war in which he referred to two grounds of satisfaction which Liberals had—first, the Rugby resolution protesting against the policy of unconditional surrender, and second, the manly, fearless, and truthful leadership of Sir H. Campbell-Bannerman.

WEDNESDAY, November 20.—Mr. Chamberlain, replying through his secretary to a correspondent, said that the so-called agitation in Germany was so evidently artificial, and so entirely based on a misapprehension of his speech, that he did not propose to take any notice of it. No sensible German could be affronted by the words in which Mr. Chamberlain justified the action of the British authorities in the Transvaal by reference to the universal policy of all civilised nations under similar circumstances.

Sir H. Campbell-Bannerman, speaking at Bath, referred to the alleged differences in the Liberal party on the subject of the war, and said they were all agreed that the war must be carried to a victorious conclusion. They were agreed that the Army had done its part splendidly; he would add, as an old official, that the departments had done well also; but those who had failed were his Majesty's Government. He proceeded to criticise the methods of the Government, and contended that the Blue-book on the concentration camps confirmed the very worst that had been said of these camps. As to the future of South Africa, he recognised that incorporation in the Empire must follow the war, but insisted that the annexed countries could only be governed under free institutions.

Mr. Hay, Secretary of State, addressing the New York Chamber of Commerce on Tuesday, delivered an important speech in which he expounded the external policy of the Administration as to the maintenance of the Monroe doctrine, friendship with all the Powers, a fair field and no favour in commerce, and the creation of an Isthmian Canal for the use of all well-disposed peoples, but under exclusive American ownership and control. No fear of ignoble criticism would tempt them to insult or defy a Great Power because it was strong, or even because it was friendly. Mr. Choate, the American Ambassador to England, referred to the respect and consideration he had met with in this country, and to the depth and universality of the sympathy shown here on the occasion of Mr. McKinley's assassination.

THE FAMINE IN INDIA.

GLOOMY PROSPECTS.

TEST WORKS CONTEMPLATED IN THE PUNJAB.

The Secretary of State for India has received the following telegram from the Viceroy, dated November 16:—

"Prospects continue gloomy in South Punjab and Rajputana, owing to bad autumn harvest and want of rain delaying spring sowings. Test works contemplated Punjab, but not yet opened. In Central India, Baroda, and the part of Bombay Presidency adjoining, and in part of Central Provinces and North-Western Provinces, rain is wanted for spring cultivation. There is no present cause for anxiety. Elsewhere generally prospects are favourable. There has been good rain recently throughout Madras Presidency, and showers have fallen in parts of Bengal. Numbers in receipt of relief: Bombay, 72,000; Bombay Native States, 11,000; Baroda, 27,000; Mysore, 2,000; total, 112,000."

THE "INVESTORS' REVIEW" FUND.

We take the following from the current issue (November 16) of the "Investors' Review":—

Through Sir William Wedderburn we have received the following additions to our little Fund this week. The needs of India will now again grow apace, alas for it! And we have so little to spare. Appended is a note also from Sir William, to account for the money already received and paid over:—

	£	s.	d.
To amount previously acknowledged	£982	14	2
,, Westbourne Park Indian Circle		10	3
,, Collection in Aston Church, Sheffield, by Rev. W. Dale, per Sir Wm. Wedderburn, Bart.	1	3	1
Total to date	£984	7	6

British Committee of the Indian National Congress,
84 and 85, Palace Chambers,
Westminster, S.W.
November 15, 1901.

Dear Sir,—I am directed by Sir W. Wedderburn to inform you of the remittance to-day to Bombay of the sum of £25 18s. 4d. (Rs. 382/13/-) further on account of the "Investors' Review" Indian Famine Fund.

Statement of Account is appended.—Yours truly,

W. DOUGLAS HALL, Assistant-Secretary.

A. J. Wilson, Esq.

ACCOUNT.

	£	s.	d.		£	s.	d.
Receipts as per my letter of Jan. 14, 1901	938	14	8	Remitted to Bombay to January 14, 1901	938	14	8
1901.				1901.			
March 18. Receipts as Bank Passbook	8	19	0	June 21. Remitted to Bombay, Rs. 243/13/-	16	10	2
June 12. Ditto	7	11	2	November 15. Remitted to Bombay, Rs. 382/13/- ..	25	18	4
October 4. Ditto	25	18	4				
	£981	3	2	(Rs. 14,536/3/8)	£981	3	2

THE INDIAN FAMINE UNION.

FORMATION OF A LIVERPOOL BRANCH.

[SPECIAL REPORT.]

A meeting was held in the Common Hall, Hackins-hey, Liverpool, on November 15, at 3 o'clock, in connexion with the Indian Famine Union. Among those present were Mesdames Bowring, Stewart Brown, Snelt Brown, Mahood, and G. Blair, Drs. Aked, de Beaumont Klein, and Messrs. Samuelson, Ludlam, Edwards, Gilbert, and the Rev. S. J. Jones.

It was resolved that owing to the sufferings of the masses of the Indian people, and the responsibility of the British people for their welfare, it is desirable to form in Liverpool a branch of the Indian Famine Union, which has for its special object the investigation of the causes of Indian famines, and the promotion of possible means of prevention; and that the friends of India who sympathise with the objects of the Union, and pay a subscription of not less than one shilling per year to the local funds, constitute the Liverpool Branch.

The following officers were then elected:—President, Sir Edward Russell; Vice President, Dr. C. F. Aked; Treasurer, Mr. Sidney Style; Secretary, Mrs. G. Blair; with the following committee: Mesdames Bowring, Stewart Brown, Snelt Brown, Mahood; Misses E. Robinson, Rathbone, Gosling; Drs. de Beaumont Klein, E. Levine; Revs. S. J. Jones, R. Armstrong, Hoare; Messrs. R. Robinson, B. Johnson, A. Wilson, J. Edwards, A. Ludlam, W. Callie.

The following resolutions were then passed:—

(i.) That in the opinion of this meeting it is desirable that the Secretary of State for India should cause a detailed enquiry to be carried on in selected typical villages in each of the provinces affected by the famine, with a view to ascertain the actual condition of the cultivator, and to suggest means by which he may be enabled better to withstand the effects of drought and scarcity. That copies of this resolution be sent to Lord George Hamilton and to the local members of Parliament.

Proposed by Dr. Aked.
Seconded by Mrs. Stewart Brown.

(ii.) That the Committee of this Branch is of opinion that a copy of the resolution should go direct to Mr. W. C. Bonnerjee, one of the delegates of the Indian National Congress, with a view to possible discussion of the question in the Indian National Congress, and suggestions from the Congress to the Committee.

Proposed by Mr. Samuelson.
Seconded by Dr. de Beaumont Klein.

(iii.) That the Secretary be commissioned to write to the Executive Committee of the London Indian Famine Union to ask that speakers may be sent by them to Liverpool to instruct the members on Indian subjects, and that the speakers so sent address meetings in various places in Liverpool. That the Committee do all in their power

to obtain members for the Branch, and that anyone wishing to become members to send their names to the Secretary.

Proposed by Mrs. Bowring.
Seconded by Mr. Edwards.

(iv.) That literature be obtained for the instruction of the Committee and members.

Proposed by Mr. Gilbert.
Seconded by Mrs. Mahood.

The Committee then signed the Memorial, and the proceedings were brought to a close.

THE INDIAN FAMINE UNION'S MEMORIAL.

FURTHER OPINIONS OF THE BRITISH PRESS.

THE "EVENING NEWS."

The Indian Famine Union has been formed, it seems, for the purpose of pressing upon the Government the need for a searching enquiry into the causes of the late famine, and the best means of preventing such a disastrous state of things in the future. The request seems eminently reasonable, and the suggested method—the examination of typical villages in different parts of India—sufficiently simple. The Union is backed by a long string of well-known names and one can hardly suppose that its modest aims will not meet with the reward they deserve.—(November 4.)

THE "FREE METHODIST."

On the principle that prevention is better than cure a number of influential men have established an Indian Famine Union, with a view to seek out the causes of these recurring calamities and to co-operate with the administration in promoting means of prevention. A memorial, most influentially supported, is about to be presented to the Secretary of State for India, praying for a detailed enquiry into the economic condition of typical villages in the famine area. Various remedies for Indian famines have been suggested, such as the more rapid extension of irrigation, agricultural banks, village and other industries, re-afforestation, migration, grain storage, export duties on grain, etc. The memorialists state that they are most strongly impressed with the conviction that the problem of checking famine in India cannot be usefully considered without further special knowledge of the different circumstances of its extended territories and of their inhabitants. Such investigations would seem to be very necessary, and the Government ought at once to make them.—(November 7.)

THE "STATIST."

The Indian Famine Union has petitioned Lord George Hamilton to make a detailed enquiry into the economic condition of a limited number of selected villages in each of the provinces which have been afflicted by famine. It is suggested that in each province the local administration should select typical villages, and appoint suitable persons, including officials and non-officials, Europeans and Indians, to make a complete enquiry into their condition, ascertaining the exact financial position of each cultivator, with the history and causes of his difficulties. When the economic record of these villages is complete, approved experiments in their management might be entrusted to administrators of proved capacity and discretion. Different groups of villages will doubtless be found to require different treatment, and the remedies, administrative and legislative, found efficacious in the typical villages could be afterwards cautiously extended to the groups existing under similar economic conditions. This appears to us an excellent suggestion. And it is to be hoped that the Indian Government will act upon it.—(November 2.)

THE "CHRISTIAN LEADER."

By direction of a very large committee, including men of the most varied and influential position, a memorial is about to be presented to Lord George Hamilton, principal Secretary of State for India, on the subject of recurring famines and the economic condition of the impoverished districts. There can now be little doubt that in Rajputana and several other provinces, even in the hill region of the Santhals, there will again be famine; the monsoon delays, only a few showers fall; prices are rising. Indeed, properly speaking, a large part of Northern India is never well out of sight of famine: the land is becoming a desert and populous towns are threatened with the fate of the strange old city described in "The Nalankha." Famine prevention becomes urgent. In the terms of the memorial: "The problem of checking famines in India cannot be usefully considered without further special knowledge of the different circumstances of the extended territories and their inhabitants. Our request therefore is that the Government will be pleased to cause a detailed enquiry to be made into the economic condition of a limited number of villages in each of the provinces afflicted by famine. It is suggested that in each province the local administration should select typical villages and appoint suitable persons, including officials and non-officials, Europeans and Indians, to ascertain the exact financial condition of each cultivator, with the history and causes of his difficulties. When the record is complete, approved experiments in management might be entrusted to administrators of proved capacity and discretion. Different groups of villages will doubtless be found to require different treatment, and the remedies found efficacious could be afterwards extended to groups existing under similar economic conditions." The memorialists ask this "with the more confidence" because they know of "important instances" in which something of the kind has been done—the Dekkhan Ryots Relief Act of 1879 and the Punjab Alienation of Land Act, 1900, based on an enquiry, minute and careful, carried out in 1895-6 in typical tracts of the western Punjab. It covered 742 villages, was completed in six months, and cost only £300. Other enquiries have been made from time to time, but not specifically in regard to the causes of famine, and moreover the present famine belt is one of unusual severity. "It appears, therefore, that a fresh examination is urgently necessary." The memorialists desire it to be understood that their proposals are of a purely scientific and humanitarian character, unconnected with party politics. They feel, as many do, that this country has made itself trustee for India and is bound, not merely to "relieve" when distress comes, but to seek out the causes of calamity and find means of prevention, if possible. The Government of India has done a good deal, and wise men have planned great things; but at home here thought and interest are needed. Let the people who object to missions support this equally needful movement. The signatures apended to the memorial include those of Sir William Wedderburn, the Marquis of Ripon, the Earl of Aberdeen, Sir William Muir, Sir Lepel Griffin, Mr. Burt, Mr. John Burns, Mr. Bernard Shaw, Mr. George Meredith, Mr. Herbert Spencer, Mrs. Flora Annie Steel, and some other ladies, also a number of representative clergy of all churches, mayors, provosts, members of Parliament, etc. This effort ought not to be a fizzle.—(November 7.)

Many other journals—e.g., the "Times" and the "Queen"—have reprinted or summarised the Memorial without, however, expressing so far any opinion concerning it.

"INDIA OF TO-DAY."

LECTURE BY MR. ROMESH DUTT, C.I.E., AT RICHMOND.

[SPECIAL REPORT.]

On Monday last, Mr. Romesh Dutt, C.I.E., addressed the Richmond Athenæum, the subject of his lecture being, "India of To-day." The large hall was crowded, and the galleries above were filled. Sir Roland Wilson took the chair, and the speech and the debate which followed occupied two hours.

Mr. DUTT said that India to-day was no longer a land of romance, but of intense practical interest. It was not an unknown country; there was scarcely a town or a home in the United Kingdom which was not connected closely or remotely with India. It was no longer a land of new adventures; Englishmen there were engaged in the prosaic duties of commerce or judicial administration, or revenue collection. Tipu Sultans and Ranjit Singhs had disappeared, and had made room for Local Boards and Municipalities. The old Pindaree's sons and grandsons were astute lawyers, shrewd money-lenders, learned pedagogues. The Great Moghal himself had disappeared, and had left his image only on playing cards. The wealth of Ormuz and of Ind had also, he feared, disappeared, and had left the ghastly reality of poverty and famines. About two-thirds of India was under direct British rule, and one-third under Native Indian Princes, who were generally enlightened rulers, and adopted much that was good in British administration. The British territory was divided into large and populous provinces, and each province was divided into districts. The administration of these districts was strong and peaceful, but somewhat archaic. Each district was under a District Officer, who combined the duties of an executive officer, a magistrate, and a policeman. This arrangement might have been required in the early days of British rule but was unsuited to the present times, and was making British administration unpopular in India. It sinned against all principles of justice, and many thoughtful Englishmen, including the late Sir William Hunter, and many eminent retired judges and administrators from India wished to see a separation of judicial from executive duties. Education was progressing from year to year, and had produced its natural and beneficent results. There was in India now a body of strong, moderate, loyal, and practical men, who were capable of advising the Government, and naturally desirous of having a fair share in the control of the administration. Many Englishmen still thought that the only possible government for India was that exclusive and absolute rule which had done duty in the past; while others believed that there must be progress in India as elsewhere in the world, and that to exclude the educated Indians from the Executive Councils of the Empire, and from all share in the control of the administration, was creating a political danger, and was weakening the Empire. He thought that British rule in India, in order to be popular and successful, would have to accept the co-operation of the people in the control of the administration. As regards social and religious reforms, the mass of the Hindus and Mahometans would for ever remain true to the faiths of their fathers, and would never accept a foreign creed. It was a great mistake to think that there was no social or religious progress in India. The progress which had been made in the nineteenth century was indeed wonderful, and was effected by the reformers of the country like Ram Mohan Roy, Dayanana Saraswati, Iswar Vidyasagar, and Ranade. It was a matter in which the people must work out their own salvation, and foreigners could give little help. Give them a good sound education, and the people would effect their own religious and social reforms, consistent with their own needs and habits of life. Lastly, Mr. Dutt turned to the economic condition of India, and to the subject of the poverty and famines which was the gravest question of the day. The famines in

India under British rule—at a time of profound peace—had been frequent and terrible, and they were increasing in their intensity and frequency. Many untrue explanations had been offered for these disasters, and had been rejected after examination. It had been said that famines were solely due to droughts and failures of crops. But the crops never failed all through India; it was the poverty of the people which made them unable to purchase food from neighbouring provinces when it failed over any local area. It had been said that the people multiplied at a fearful rate and must be checked by famines; but figures showed that the population in India never increased as it did in England, and during the last ten years it had ceased to increase at all. It had been said that the cultivators in India were improvident, and the money-lenders were grasping; but those who had lived among the Indian cultivators knew that there was not a race of peasantry more frugal, more provident, more careful, than the Indian peasantry. And the last Famine Commission's Report showed that the rigorous levy of the Government demand forced the cultivators under the thraldom of the money-lender. One must seek deeper for the true causes of famines in India. It was unfortunately a fact that many of the sources of wealth had been narrowed, not widened, under British rule. Many of the old industries had declined, and millions of men and women who depended on those industries were now forced to depend on the produce of the soil alone. The cultivation of the soil, too, was hampered by a heavy, and (what was worse) an uncertain land tax. Proposals to fix limits to this tax, made by Lord Wellesley, Lord Minto, Lord Hastings, Lord Canning, Lord Lawrence, and Lord Ripon, had been rejected, and its uncertainty paralysed land improvements and prevented accumulation of wealth. Lastly, nearly one-half of the revenues of India were annually remitted out of India, leaving the country and the people poorer year after year. The poverty of India was a greater peril than the Mutiny of 1857, and that peril could not be faced and remedied without something of that wise statesmanship, broad sympathy, and courage to do justice which marked the administrations of Canning and of Lawrence.

A debate followed, and in reply to numerous questions Mr. Dutt further explained that the Secretary of State for India had declared in 1864 that the land tax in India should be one-half the economic rent, and the people of Madras and Bombay wanted the fulfilment of this pledge. Early in the 19th century, the East India Company and the British Parliament had by direct orders and hostile tariffs discouraged Indian industries, and the people of India demanded the help of the present Government in their endeavours to revive them. To this day the higher services of India were virtually reserved for English boys, and the people of India asked for the fulfilment of the Queen's Proclamation of 1858. The economic drain from India was partly owing to the money unwisely sunk in Indian railways under pressure from capitalists in this country, and under guarantee of profits from Indian revenues. Christian teaching had benefited India indirectly in stimulating reforms, but all endeavours to convert India would fail, and there was no more chance of Hindus and Mahometans as a nation embracing Christianity than there was of the English people embracing Hinduism or Mahometanism. Hindus and Mahometans as a nation abstained from drink—the mass of the agriculturists touched no liquor. There were granaries in every village in India to the middle of the nineteenth century, but they were fast disappearing.

The meeting closed with the usual vote of thanks to the lecturer.

COOPER'S HILL COLLEGE.

PARLIAMENTARY PAPER.

A Parliamentary Paper was published on Friday containing the Report of a Committee of the Board of Visitors on the working, discipline, and constitution of the Royal Indian Engineering College at Cooper's Hill, and on the relations between the Visitors, the President, and the Teaching Staff. The enquiry, of which this Report is the result, was instituted by the Secretary of State for India, in deference to the representations made by a number of gentlemen, including Mr. Lecky, Sir M. Foster, Sir R. Jebb, and Sir W. R. Anson, whose interest in the College was apparently aroused, in the first place, by the reduction of the teaching staff, and certain differences between the Principal, Colonel Ottley, R.E., and some of the Professors. In order, perhaps, that the enquiry might be more impartial, Lord George Hamilton invited the Universities of Oxford, Cambridge, and London to nominate additional members of the Board of Visitors, who, it was arranged, were to serve on the Committee. In their Report, which is dated July 12, the members of the Committee make the following recommendations:—

They consider, in the first place, that the Secretary of State for India should retain the immediate control of the College in his own hands. With regard to the President, they doubt the expediency of limiting the selection to officers of the Corps of Royal Engineers, and consider that it would be advisable in future appointments to attach weight to educational experience. At the same time, they are of opinion that in the President should be vested the sole responsibility for the discipline and management of the College, and for the general superintendence of the studies. They are opposed to the suggestion made in some quarters that the administration of the College should be assimilated to that of a College at Oxford or Cambridge. The Secretary of State, they point out, is and must be the real head of Cooper's Hill College, and the President his lieutenant. "We do not think it practicable," the Committee say, "under these circumstances to give a majority of the College Board final power to overrule the President." As regards the teaching staff, the Committee recommend that the appointment and dismissal of all members above the rank of Demonstrator should rest with the Secretary of State, such appointments being made terminable, on either side, at six months' notice; but they think that the present condition of engagement, making a post tenable so long as its incumbent satisfies the Principal, should be omitted in future. In conclusion, the Committee express their opinion that the equipment of the Royal Indian Engineering College, having regard to the present standard of scientific education, is defective. The recommendations made by the Committee have been considered by the Secretary of State in Council; and in a letter addressed by Lord Hardwicke, Under-Secretary of State, to the Principal, it is intimated that, so far as they concern the powers and responsibility of the President, the constitution and functions of the College Board, the maintenance of discipline, and the appointment and dismissal of the teaching staff, they are to be adopted.

Commenting on this report the "Manchester Guardian" (November 18) wrote:—A Parliamentary paper just published shows that the system hitherto in force for obtaining Government engineers for India has been very bad. The chief thing in the paper is a full report from a strong Committee of the Board of Visitors of the Royal Indian Engineering College at Cooper's Hill. It is a severe condemnation of the College and of the use made of it. The College has been badly equipped, so badly that, for example, the Committee pronounce it "impossible," under present conditions, "for any man, however great his ability may be, to give adequate instruction to the students in electric engineering." The course lasts three years and costs each student about £275 a year (for the 37 weeks of residence). As the only scholarships are of trivial value, this limits access to the College to the sons of well-to-do parents. The students enter chiefly as boys from public schools, the competition for places being obviously slight and the examination no serious test of capacity. The Committee says:—

> We do not consider that any examination of the kind can be guaranteed to select men of the desired capacity. It can give no indication of their ability to undergo technical training, because the men themselves have undergone no technical training; moreover, it is held three years before the appointments can be taken up.

Even this nominal test of intelligence is often remitted. In 1900 nine out of the thirty-six students admitted were admitted on the nomination of the President, who, like all his predecessors, is a retired officer of Engineers, without educational experience. Of these thirty-six students at least thirty-three were assured, from their admission to the College, important posts in the public service of India. There was nothing to prove their fitness. There is no equipment to train them properly even if they have aptitude. They are deprived of the incentive which beginners in other professions find in the knowledge that if they are even to make a living they must make the most of their powers. To all intents and purposes, the Indian Government shuts its eyes and takes as many average Modern Side boys from the public schools as it is likely to want engineers, and then, without any sifting of the fit from the unfit, gives them all an expensive and bad professional training and sends them out to do India's engineering. It is a miracle that they do it no worse. No doubt all this has given great ease of mind to many parents who could afford to pay £825 apiece as the price of an important and lucrative career, not dependent on ability, for their sons. But what an example it is of the way we do our Empire's business, with all our trumpeting about our patriotism. No great engineering firm in Manchester or Birmingham would dream of staffing its works in this haphazard fashion.

THE REPORT OF THE PLAGUE COMMISSION.

SOME OPINIONS OF THE BRITISH PRESS.

The "Manchester Guardian."

The Report of the Indian Plague Commission, of which the last volume has just been published, is a monument of laborious research, and a record of infinite suffering borne with great fortitude and combated with great patience and energy. Some idea of the magnitude of the Commission's work may be gathered from the fact that the Report itself, which is one of five volumes, runs to more than five hundred large pages, while the index alone to the whole work fills one hundred and fifty-four. In these volumes one sees Indian officials at their very best—untiring, devoted, and competent. There was a time in the history of the Indian plague when the wonderfully efficient machine of Indian Government seemed likely to fail through a certain lack of sympathy and lack of knowledge of human nature. That time has gone by. It is recognised in this Report that the success of any plague measures must depend largely on the sympathy of the Indian people. As the Report puts it, "the coercion of the people into compliance with regulations against plague is not a practical policy." The measures now taken against plague are

no longer military and coercive, but rather educational and prophylactic, and the Commission believes that in consequence the people have begun to understand and to second the efforts of the Government. Our efforts, it has to be admitted, have not been as successful as one could wish, for though individual plague-spots may be less black, they are more widely spread, and, by all accounts, this year promises to be a bad one. It is difficult for us in England to realise the awful significance of the figures of plague mortality in India. Up to September, 1899, the total mortality from the plague in India is estimated at 430,000 deaths, and the last two years must have brought up the deaths to not far from three-quarters of a million. Terrible as these figures are, they are, as the Report points out, not so high as the deaths from cholera in famine time, but, on the other hand, they have not been distributed equally all over India. Bombay Presidency suffered worst; in Poona, for example, there were 23,262 cases and 18,063 deaths out of a population about as great as that of Bolton, and in numerous small villages the cases ranged from 40 to 50 per cent. and the deaths from 30 to 40 per cent. of the whole population. When one reflects that this same country has been stricken in addition, year after year, with famine and cholera, no impulse of sympathy to our fellow-citizens of the Empire can be too warm, no toil without its recompense, that contributes in any degree to the mitigation of India's sufferings.

Plague is endemic in certain parts of the Himalayas, but until the present outbreak India enjoyed comparative immunity from it. The last visitation was in 1836, but this was confined to the Rajputana district, and it is only in the last five years that the disease has obtained any real hold on India. The best supported theory of its origin is that it was introduced from Hong Kong, which in its turn may have contracted it from Yunnan, another of the places where plague is endemic. About the nature and origin of the disease there are countless theories, but there is an enormous mass of evidence which inculpates the rat, and here modern investigations illustrate passages like the description of the plague in the Book of Samuel, when the Philistines are said to have made images of "emerods and of the mice that mar the land." According to Koch, indeed, the plague is primarily a disease of animals, and not of men, and this theory is confirmed by the fact that in the endemic centres of the disease it is as much an animal disease as the cattle plague. How rats become infected, and how they carry the contagion to man is uncertain; the findings of the Commission on both these points are largely negative, though it is interesting to note that it rather discredits the theory that contagion is carried by insects. It is certainly difficult to connect the disease directly with unsanitary surroundings. These are, of course, favourable to the spread of an epidemic of plague once introduced, but they are not the cause, and the ordinary description of plague as a dirt disease is to that extent unscientific. Nor can it be connected definitely with conditions of climate or temperature. As a rule damp favours plague, and in the Great Plague of London, as readers of Defoe will remember, fires were lit in the streets to dry the air. But in India the plague has often tended to fall off in the wet months. One of the most remarkable points in the disease is the apparent eccentricity of its movements from place to place and its persistence in a locality in which it has once obtained a hold. The Report gives some remarkable instances in which people who fled from their houses at the first sight of dead rats and returned perfectly healthy to them fell victims to the plague though the houses had been thoroughly cleansed and disinfected. The Report devotes much space to the chances of infection from over sea, and its findings confirm the English objection to the system of quarantine. It thinks it absolutely impossible that plague could ever be conveyed by human agency from India to England. It is not theoretically impossible that plague should be conveyed over sea in certain forms of merchandise, but practically the risk may be left out of account. Corn, cotton, wool certainly cannot carry infection; rags and portions of cast-off clothing possibly may. But the risk is so small and so easily guarded against as to be almost negligible.

Plague treatment seems to have made but little progress, and the rates of case-mortality are still terribly high. In Hong Kong, for example, according to some tables given in a very interesting article in the current "Quarterly Review," the mortality from plague varied between 89 per cent. in 1898 to as high as 96.1 per cent. in 1899. Happily the cases were comparatively few in number. In India the case-mortality is on the average 20 or 30 per cent. lower; but it is still higher than in any other known epidemical disease, and no really successful curative treatment has yet been found. On the other hand, though the evidence is extremely conflicting, Dr. Haffkine's prophylactic methods seem to have been on the whole successful. The "Quarterly" Reviewer, writing with a part of the Report before him, goes so far as to say that if inoculation by his methods had been general the deaths would have been reduced by nine-tenths. The view taken in the Report is less sanguine, but the authorities believe in the inoculation and are doing their best to extend its practice, with, on the whole, satisfactory results. Dr. Haffkine's method, in untechnical layman's language, is to cultivate the germs in flasks, to draw off the liquid and then heat it. The resultant liquid is then injected as in vaccination. Dr. Haffkine first inoculated himself, with the result that he contracted a mild kind of plague, which did not, however, prevent him from working as usual. The story of this Russian doctor's courage and patient research, as told in the Report, is a fine example of scientific heroism. The results of inoculation in plague are by no means so certain as might be wished, but the discovery at least seems to have put fresh heart into the battle against the disease. The great lesson, however, to be drawn from the Report is that the real battle against plague is in careful observance of sanitary rules. Isolated cases may occur anywhere, though the risk, small as it is, may be still further diminished by the careful enforcement of certain rules. But in a healthy community the germ, even where it has effected an entrance, may be extinguished immediately, like a spark on a wet blanket, to use the "Quarterly" Reviewer's phrase. Plague may not be a filth disease in the strict scientific sense; but it is only in the midst of filth, over-crowding, and poverty that any great and destructive epidemic of plague can occur.—(November 16.)

THE "TIMES."

On the question of the value of preventive inoculation, the Commissioners report that it sensibly diminishes the incidence of plague attacks on the inoculated population, but that the protection which it affords is not absolute in individual cases, something like 8 per cent. of the inoculated having suffered at Bulsar. It diminishes the death-rate, both by diminishing the number of cases and by diminishing the severity of the attacks when occurring in inoculated persons. The protection afforded does not appear to be produced until some days after the operation, but it certainly endures for some considerable number of weeks, probably for some months. The facts are, however, to some extent obscured by the varying strength of the vaccine employed; and the Commissioners recommend accurate standardisation for the future, and also that, for the satisfaction of the people, the syringe employed should be sterilized, before every operation, in the presence and sight of the patient. With regard to the treatment by serum, the conclusions are less satisfactory, whether that of Yersin or that of Lustig has been employed. The Commissioners conclude that, upon the whole, a certain amount of advantage has in all probability accrued to the patients thus treated, whichever serum was employed; but they modify this conclusion by adding that it seems not to have been impossible that in exceptional cases the serum treatment, like, perhaps, every other, may have done positive harm. Dismissal with faint praise may not incorrectly be described as the general verdict in the case. The Report then passes on to consider in what way the incidence of plague in India may be most efficiently controlled; and the Commissioners' recommendations in this direction amount to a practical reconstruction of the whole sanitary service of the country, and to the appointment of a sufficient number of competent health officers and other officials to render to India the same sort of assistance, in point of fact, that is rendered to the inhabitants of this country by the medical department of the Local Government Board. The recommendations involve the employment of a large number of highly-qualified persons, and, if adopted by the Government, would entail considerable expenditure. There can be no doubt, however, that greater safety for India against the prevalence of epidemic disease, whether plague or any other, can be afforded only by such improvements in health administration as have produced the same effects in other countries. It is noteworthy that two of the Commissioners, Messrs. Hewett and Cumine, both non-medical Indian officials, are not wholly in accord with their colleagues as to the way in which the required reforms should be carried into effect. Their dissent points to the possibility of difficulties with the Indian bureaucracy with regard to the establishment of any system which English sanitary reformers would think adequate to the requirements of the case.—(November 13.)

LORD G. HAMILTON ON INDIA.

On Wednesday night Lord George Hamilton, M.P., presided at the 17th annual dinner of the Priory Constitutional Club, Acton, of which he is President.

In replying to the toast of "His Majesty's Ministers," Lord George Hamilton, referring to India, said that, notwithstanding agricultural depression and drought in certain portions of that continent, it had prospered during the last three or four years. Lord Curzon, as Viceroy, had been a most remarkable success, showing a power for administration and a capacity for public affairs even greater than the most sanguine of his friends anticipated. (Hear, hear.) He thought he could confidently predict that when Lord Curzon's term of Viceroyalty in India had terminated, and if his health was spared to him, he would rise to the highest position any man in this country could aspire to. (Hear, hear.) Contrary to that which was predicted, India had not been a source of weakness in the time of national need, but had, indeed, been a source of strength, as had been shown in South Africa and in China. He would add that in their treatment of the natives whom they came in contact with the Indian Native troops showed a humanity and kindness which certainly was not exceeded by the troops of the so-called civilised nations with whom they were associated.

SOCIETY OF ARTS.—The opening meeting of the Indian Section of the Society of Arts will take place on Thursday afternoon, December 5, when Mr. Edward Penton, B.A. (Oxon), will read a paper, illustrated with lantern views, on "The New Trade Route to Persia by Nushki and Seistan." The chair will be taken at 4.30 by the Right Hon. Sir Henry Drummond Wolff.

NATIONAL INDIAN ASSOCIATION.—On Monday afternoon, November 25, a paper will be read in the Jehanghir Hall, Imperial Institute Road, S.W., by M. L. Dhingra, M.D. (Edin.), D.P.H. (Camb.), Member of the Sanitary Institute, etc., on "Indian Sanitation: A Personal View." Sir George M. Birdwood, K.C.I.E., will take the chair at 4.30.

JUST PUBLISHED. Crown 8vo, 5s.

LAST ESSAYS.

SECOND SERIES.

ESSAYS ON THE SCIENCE OF RELIGION.

By the Right Hon. F. MAX MÜLLER, K.M.

CONTENTS.—Forgotten Bibles (1884)—Ancient Prayers—Indian Fables and Esoteric Buddhism (1893)—The Alleged Sojourn of Christ in India (1894)—The Kutho-Daw (1895)—Buddha's Birth Place (1898)—Mohammedanism and Christianity (1894)—The Religions of China (1900):—1. Confucianism; 2. Taoism; 3. Buddhism and Christianity—The Parliament of Religions at Chicago (1894)—Why I am not an Agnostic (1894)—Is Man Immortal?

London: LONGMANS, GREEN & CO.

"INDIA," Jan.-June, 1901.

VOL. XV.

NOW READY.

Bound in Cloth (post free) 7/6 each net cash.

The following volumes of "India," bound in cloth, can also be obtained:—

Vols. V. (1894), VI. (1895), VII. (1896), VIII. (1897). Price 8/6 each, post free.

Vols. IX. (Jan.-June, 1898), X. (July-Dec., 1898), XI. (Jan.-June, 1899), XII. (July-Dec., 1899). XIII. (Jan-June, 1900). XIV. (July-Dec., 1900). Price 7/6 each, post free.

Remittances should accompany order.

Apply to the Manager, "India,"
84 & 85, Palace Chambers, Westminster, S.W.

LEGAL EDUCATION IN ENGLAND.

Full particulars of the course of study and of the cost of living, etc., etc., will be forwarded on the receipt of 8 one anna stamps, by Mr. J. M. PARIKH,
1, Cloisters, Temple, London, E.C.

"THE PEOPLE OF INDIA: Their Many Merits by Many who have Known Them."

Mr. Alfred Webb's articles reprinted in pamphlet form from "India."

A copy will be sent free on receipt of 1d. stamp to cover postage.

Secretaries of Political Associations, Clubs, Literary Societies, in the United Kingdom may obtain copies for distribution on application.

British Committee of the Indian National Congress,
84 & 85, Palace Chambers, Westminster, S.W.

Europeans resident in India desiring copies should send ½ anna stamp to
Mr. Harichandra A. Talcherkar,
52, Veronica Street, Bandra, Bombay.

IMPORTANT NOTICE.

"INDIA," 1902.

"INDIA" will be forwarded only to persons in respect of whom subscriptions have been actually received at the London office. To this rule there will be no exception.

In order to obtain every number published during 1902 it is necessary that the name of the Subscriber and his Subscription should be received in London before December 31, 1901, as back numbers will not be stocked. New names will be added as received, but no back numbers can be obtained.

Do you want to know by every mail what has been done in Parliament concerning India?

Do you want to see Special Reports of Public Meetings in England concerning India?

Do you want to read what the British Press is writing about India?

——— The Journal "INDIA" will tell you.

The Subscription, including postage direct to the Subscriber, will be at the rate of **Eight Rupees per Annum, Four Rupees Eight Annas per Half Year,** or **Two Rupees Eight Annas per Quarter.**

ORDER FORM FOR USE OF SUBSCRIBERS.

Please fill in this form, and send direct to the London Office with a Post Office Money Order for **Eight Rupees,** made payable to W. Douglas Hall, and crossed ______ & Co.

To the Manager of "INDIA," 84 & 85, Palace Chambers, Westminster, London, S.W.

Please send me the weekly "INDIA" during 1902.

Write distinctly. { *Name* ______________________
Address ______________________

for which is remitted the sum of Eight Rupees (Rs. 8/-/-).

Printed by A. Bonner, 1 & 2, Took's Court, London, E.C., and Published for the Proprietors at 84 and 85, Palace Chambers, Westminster, S.W.